

REMARKS

The interview with examiner Cranmer on June 15, 2004 is acknowledged with appreciation. The examiner's summary of the interview appears to be an accurate and complete statement of what transpired at the interview.

Claim 16 has been amended to overcome the objection stated at the beginning of page 2 of the office action.

In the office action claims 5-8 and 19-20 were objected to and indicated as allowable. Claims 5-8 and 19 have been placed in independent form. Claims 2-4 and 9-18 remain dependent on claim 1.

At the interview it was agreed that the prior art does not teach or suggest a chair comprising the combination of elements as recited in claim 1 wherein the guide bumper includes a leg pad adapted to engage the adjacent leg of the underlying chair and a first pad support coupled to the leg sleeve and to the leg pad and arranged to hold the leg pad in a fixed, spaced-apart position relative to the leg sleeve to define an open space therebetween.

Claims 21-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

As urged at the interview, claim 28 recites "each stacker bumper including a leg pad adapted to engage the companion adjacent leg of the underlying chair and a first pad retainer shaped to mechanically couple the leg pad to an upper end of one of the first, second, third, and fourth legs" and the prior art does not teach or suggest a chair as recited in claim 28 including these features. The prior art to Haynes et al discloses plastic bumper guards 20a, but not the stacker bumpers as recited in applicant's claim 28.

New claim 31 recites a kit including a leg cap and a stacker bumper. As discussed at the interview the prior art does not teach or suggest a kit including a leg cap and a stacker bumper as recited in claim 31.

For at least the above reasons, claims 1-20 and 28-34 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 and 28-34 is, respectfully, requested.

No additional claim fee appears to be due. Any additional claim fee is authorized to be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (20341-72825).

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that require further action.

It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees, being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (20341-72825).

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG



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